THE

Dutiful Sons Complaint

TO THEIR

MOTHER

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Church of England.

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THE Dutiful Sons Complaint TO THEIR MOTHER THE Church of England, Concerning the Late ELECTIONS.

By a Person of Quality.

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THE
Dutiful Sons Complaint
TO THEIR
MOTHER
THE
Church of England.

Madam,

FROM our Infancies to this Hour, we have liv'd in Obedience to you: We have examined ſtrictly into all that our Enemies can object againſt you, and found, That from your Breaſts flows ſafe, wholſom and ſound Milk, to nouriſh us up to Eternal Life: As you are a great Lady, we never thought you too Expenceful, too Richly Adorn'd, your Jewels too many, nor the State you keep, too Proud and Magnificent. We think the ſetled Order and Oeconomy of your Family Decent and Noble, keeping a Moderate mean between the Tinſel Embroderies of your Enemy of the one ſide, and the Slovenly-Rude and Irrational Behaviours of your Maligner on the other: Though we muſt hint to you, that ſome of your Stewards

Stewards and Officers have endeavour'd to introduce Cuſtoms and Notions, that in the Beginning were not known, and by which your Ladyſhip's Intereſt has ſuffered much; by them have been alienated many of your Subjects Hearts, who like the Prodigal Son, have thrown themſelves into Countreys, where they have ſpent their time in Riotous Living, encourag'd to ſuch dangerous courſes, by aſſurances of eaſier Pardons, and upon eaſier Terms than your Officers can diſpenſe to them; and ſome have betaken themſelves to the latter end of the Prodigal's Adventure, the Feeding with Swine upon Acorns, and ſuch wild nouriſhing Food. But no more of that at preſent, and to return to a little further account of our ſelves: We paid you this Duty, and do ſtill, not from a heavy, dull Submiſſion, becauſe you brought us into the World; but with the chearfulneſs of a Sincere Affection; nay, which is rais'd up to the candid height of a warm Zeal. Yet of late, we have been repreſented to you as Diſobedient Sons, allow'd 'tis true, to eat our Daily Bread in your Houſe, yet not thought fit to ſerve you in yours, and the Nations Publick Councils. Alas! had this Storm fall'n only upon ſome few of us, by the Miſtake or Malice of any of your great Officers, we could have ſate ſtill ſilent under ſuch a Diſgrace; but this has been Univerſal, affecting many of your Subjects, (able, fit and affectionate for your Service and Safety,) and that too with Vehemency, Intemperancy, nay, and Falſhood to in moſt caſes. And this Zeal or Malice has exceeded all Decent Bounds, even to the Naming of Perſons, and framing falſe Characters of them, as unfit to ſerve in this preſent Parliament; either for being ſuppos'd Treacherous, or perhaps not affectionate enough to your Glory and Government.

After our Complaint thus exhibited to your Ladyſhip, we know that (as we have been repreſented to you) your Anſwer will be, 'Tis impoſſible that all your Officers could be thus Alarm'd without ſome juſt cauſe; That ſurely Commonwealth Principles began to gain ground every day upon our Civil Rights, and the *Presbyterians* (with their ſeveral

veral ſpawn'd Subdiviſions) encroach'd as faſt upon our Eccleſiaſtical Politie; That the laſt Houſe of Commons had drunk very deep of both theſe Cups, and intoxicated with ſo large a Draught, drove furiouſly to overturn thoſe Chariots the Laws have provided for our Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Rights to Ride Honourably in; intending they ſhould henceforward go on Foot, at leaſt, if they were ſuffered to go at all.

In Anſwer to this heavy and moſt unreaſonable Charge, we will deal more ſincerely with you, than your Officers have done by you; (and 'tis no Novelty, Madam, for Princes to have corrupt Miniſters, provided with falſe Glaſſes of all ſorts, wherewith to deceive their Maſters Sight.) By all the Obſervations we can make, and we may want Parts, but not Candid Intentions, to collect them faithfully; we neither believe there was any Danger at preſent intended, or ſo much as thought on (even by thoſe that deſired it moſt;) and we believe the moſt Zealous of the Diſſenters were at preſent throughly ſatisfied with their Exemption from Penal Laws, and the Liberty of their Conſcience granted to them; that their Numbers in that Houſe were even to a Trifle inconſiderable; that ſuch kind of Changes were ſo far from being the buſineſs of the Houſe, that we dare be bold to ſay, it never entred into the Head of any one Member, to think them practicable in our Age: And ſuppoſe ſeveral did, the wonder were were not ſo great, to have in an Aſſembly of Five Hundred Men, ſome few Madmen interſpers'd; *Bedlam*, as our Affairs now ſtand, being a much fitter Place for ſuch, than ſo great a Council as the Commons of *England*.

This being the Caſe, Madam, 'tis worth your Inquiry, to know from whence roſe this intemperate Heat, this mighty Zeal, theſe Panick Fears, this unſeaſonable crying, *Fire, Fire*, when all were aſleep and quiet? Why muſt you be now, juſt now, cry'd out upon, in Tumult and Noiſe, *Great is* Diana *of the* Epheſians? Who doubts it? Your Friends think this too great a debaſement of your Ladyſhip: Your Enemies wonder at ſuch little Arts, and ſpeaking with

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ſcorn of your great Officers, and their influenced Miniſters, ſay, *'Tis not* Diana *is concern'd, but the Silver-Smith's craft.* Theſe your wilfully or witleſsly miſtaken Sons, have taken a conceit of Danger, where no Danger is; or elſe, have ſome other work in hand: I hope it is a Wiſe one; and it had need be wiſer than any they have undertaken this great while. For, Madam, though your great and implacable Enemy abroad, has a ſubtil and well-experienc'd Council, that he may rely on, You have not; yours indeed, we believe, have the Innocency of the Dove, but very little of the Serpents Wiſdom; and what-ever they might have done before, we are ſure their wiſeſt courſe at this Juncture, had been to have given, (without any Clamour, or open-profeſs'd Diſcrimination of Perſons, their own Voices in the Right of their Free-holds, and quietly left their Cauſe in God's Hands, who knows better how to Fight for them, and order their Affairs, than they do themſelves.

'Tis a Diſturbance to us, we cannot eaſily ſhake off, when we ſee any occaſion of Prejudice given againſt you; we Honour and we Love you from our Souls, and cannot hear with Patience any hard Cenſures of you: You have Enemies 'tis true, that will improve all Infirmities you can be ſubject to, make your Motes appear Beams, to ſhew you the more odious; and therefore you ought to walk circumſpectly, to give as little ſhadow of Offence as poſſible, knowing your Enemies on the one ſide are ſo implacable, as never to be reconciled to you, and ſo not to be truſted, and leaſt of all when they flatter. Win upon your Enemy on the other ſide, with a ſhining Integrity of Life and Doctrin, with an Innocent and Charitable Behaviour towards them. Give but ſuch Directions to your Miniſters, and let them ſincerely apply themſelves to this Method, and we are very confident, you would ſooner find your Account by it, than by any other of a more Imperious Nature.

We beſeech you, be not ſo Partial to condemn all for Enemies, becauſe they did, and ſtill do find fault with ſome of your Evil Counſellors: Believe us, ſome of them do it, and yet preſerve an unſpotted Loyalty to you. I know the Anſwer of ſome of your Clergy will be, *Yes, Madam, thus they began in all Times, eſpecially in Forty One, but never left following their Succeſſes, till they had ſtrip'd you naked, and left you deſolate upon the Mountains*: All this we confeſs ingenuouſly, and more than this if you pleaſe; We did leave you the Oak, our Beauty and Strength, and choſe the Bramble to rule over us, which ſad experience has fix'd ſuch a Pillar of Remembrance to all the Gentry and Nobility of this Nation, of which our Parliaments will ever be compos'd, as doubtleſs will (like thoſe of *Hercules*,) be a perpetual *nil ultra* to the encroachments of the *Scots*, *Geneva* or *Calviniſtical* Model of Church Government; much leſs, to let it paſs here by a Law. Tolerated indeed it may be, according to the peaceable forgiving Charitable Principles of our great Maſter and yours, but will never more be truſted with the Authority of Government. Whatever they may inſinuate to you upon that Head, is a Spurious Offſpring of Reaſon, and not Legitimate. And now I am fall'n by chance upon that diſtant Subject I intended not to meddle with; Give me leave, Madam, with Modeſty and Reverence, to reaſon a little with your Ladyſhip, upon thoſe matters, and to affirm, That many of your Miniſters were not ſo innocent, but that either from ill Conduct or ill Principles, they contributed much to the raiſing that Storm, in which both Church and State ſuffered Shipwrack. And as it cannot be forgotten, that all the Miſcarriages in thoſe Days were lay'd upon Evil Conſellours, to preſerve inviolable the Reverend Maxim, *The King can do no wrong*; ſo may we juſtly ſay of you, *The Church of* England *has nothing in her Conſtitution can do any Wrong*. Innovations ('tis true,) and Novelties may be introduc'd for the State and Profit of your Greater or Leſſer Officers, yet your ſelf ſtand in your Firſt Purity and Innocency.

When you were first restor'd to your Primitive Righteousness and Integrity, (established in the Five First General Counsels,) and confirm'd by the Laws of this Nation, and so assum'd the Name of *Church of* England; when I say, you threw your self into the Arms of the Civil Magistrate, not constituting, but restoring him to his antient Inheritance, *Supream Head of the Church*; I do not find the least Footstep of any Right, *Jure Divino*, independent upon the Civil Magistrate, pretended to, till the time of King *Charles* the First; Church-Government has certainly a Divine Right attending it, and this or that Church-Government, when constituted by all the Civil and Ecclesiastical Members of that Government, has a Divine Right to command Obedience to it; yet the Composing that Body of such and such Members, is but *Jure Humano*, and that Power which fram'd the Structure, may alter such and such Rooms, and may turn them to such and such uses; but nothing under nor less than that Power, ought to alter a Pin or Window of that House. There be also, I must confess very many, nay most of your Subjects, who very faithfully Adore and Reverence you, who yet cannot bring themselves up to the Believing, that the Office of Episcopacy, is *Jure Divino*; by Apostolical Recommendation they will receive it and respect it, but cannot admit the other. For if that were so, then both Persons and Office would stand, like the Moral Law, above the Power of any Magistracy's altering it in the least point from that very form, in which it was first by Divine Precept constituted; and would be like the Two Tables, containing our Duties to God and one another; of which it may be said, Heaven and Earth may pass away, but not one tittle of that Word by no Power on Earth can be added to, or diminish'd. From which Premises, a most severe Inference naturally flows; for alas, where is Consecration, Baptism, or the Holy Sacrament, in those Places containing Millions of Devout Souls, that by circumstances of Time and Things, could not preserve that Honourable Order of Men, or Methods of Consecration?

We cannot truly altogether acquit your prime Minister in those Days, of such Pretences as these, both as to his Person, Office, and your Government: He gave too many Instances of it in the High-Commission-Court, and all the Bishop's Courts in their several Dioceses, to the Offence and Oppression of many of your Subjects, who otherwise would have drove fairly, and not have kick'd so rudely, as they did afterwards, to the Breaking their Harness all-to-pieces. He certainly did more than nibble, for he boldly bit at that which was condemned here as unjust Usurpation in the Bishop of *Rome*: If all saying, there may be a particular Primate or Patriarch (so Independently and Divinely Constituted) in one Province, Why may there not be as well an Universal one over all the World? And indeed from this it was inferr'd, though certainly most falsly, that he was inclining to reduce this Nation under the *Roman* Bondage, upon Supposition of his Preferment to a Cardinal's Cap, and thence of his obtaining the Popedom, as Cardinal *Wolsey* had attempted before him. Whatever was censur'd of him, his high Thoughts, we dare say, confin'd themselves within this Country, where (upon the Foundation of drawing a Right Succession of the Priestly Office, from Christ and his Apostles to these Days of ours,) he would needs build you up a Government distinct and separate from the civil one, accountable only to itself, without any Appeal cognoscible in any Civil Court: Whereof the King might be allowed to be the Moderator, the Nursing Father, or so; but the Head was of hard Digestion; as if it were Monstrous, for One Head to animate Two so distinct and separate Bodies. Whether this were the Judgment or the Ambition of that great Minister, I cannot determine; but I am very sure, it would not then, nor ever will, go down with the greatest or most thinking part of the Nation: And it was look'd upon as an Innovation of those days, and never in your Crown before, neither pretended to, nor thought on; and it was more strictly examin'd and reason'd upon, when as Orders pre-

tended from you, were issued out, That none of your Subjects or Sons, Travelling abroad, should either receive the Sacrament, or be present at any of the Divine Offices of the Reformed Churches; giving only this uncharitable Reason for it, That there was no right Ordination among them, *ergo* no Priests, consequently no Sacraments, and so no Church; and so by this Chain of Conclusions, no Salvation at all, but in this little corner of the World, *England*. For we had left *Rome*, as a Mountebank, giving Poyson, not Physick: And so all the rest, were they never so fit, could not be permitted to practise as our Spiritual Physicians, only because they had not taken their Degrees aright, to qualify them, *pro cura Animarum*. These things according to our observation, gave the First prejudice to you in our Civil Magistracy, and were not easily rooted out, and we hope will never be revived.

We acknowledge it to be a great Blessing, That by God's Merciful Providence, this undoubted Succession of the Priestly Office, this Antient and Reverend Hierarchy of Bishops, are preserv'd among us; but certainly we ought not to pride our selves upon the enjoying these advantagious Priviledges. There were circumstances attending, that call'd our Reformation, that could not usher in those of other Parts of *Christendom*. Our Civil Government, Prince and People, Prelates and Clergy-men, concurr'd in this here, and so the Succession was easily preserv'd among us: But abroad the Reformation took its Rise, even like the Christian Religion itself, from Cellars, from Chambers, from Woods, and in the midst of Fiery and Bloody Persecutions; and what they wanted in due Forms, God has undoubtly accepted in his Mercy, and has so bless'd the endeavours of these un-ordain'd Husbandmen in his Vineyard, that though the Order of Bishops, nor the Consecration of Priests, may not be preserv'd from antient times, yet Millions of Souls have been led by them, out of the Mists and Bogs of *Romish* Errors, into a right Belief of all things neces-

neceſſary for Salvation, into Holy Lives here, and without queſtion into Immortal Happineſs hereafter. And therefore we cannot digeſt that cold-affected Charity of many of your Sons, who ſay, *We leave them to Gods Mercy, we condemn them not*, &c. Since they may and ought to be certain of it without any ſcruple at all.

We deſire you (for all this,) ſhould not miſtake us, and with us, Thouſands of your very Loyal Subjects, upon this point; as if we could with indifferency, look upon a change in their Favour, impos'd upon you by a Law, which we are ſo far from, that as we are Men, Chriſtians, and Free-born *Engliſh*-Men, we proteſt our abhorrence of it. And as we own this Averſion, ſo we declare, That we had not the leaſt apprehenſion or ſhadow of Fear in the laſt Parliament of any ſuch thing; for if there were ſome, which queſtionleſs might in their Hearts wiſh it, they wiſely kept it very ſecret. But let us now proceed to reaſon ſomewhat nearer our firſt Intentions, from the Reſtauration of King *CHARLES* the Second, to this great Revolution in theſe our Days; once more proteſting to you, as in the Preſence of God, calling him to witneſs for us, whatſoever ſhall be here call'd to remembrance, is not reflected upon by any diſaffection to your Government over us, but to rectify a miſtake, which I doubt has lead you to hard Conſtructions of us, by a Partiality to your Officers, and may have been ſome inducement to your ſo irregular way of Proceeding toward us at this time: We ſhall therefore (as inoffenſively as the affair itſelf will bear,) lay before you a ſeries of Actions, from that time to this preſent one; and then let God judge between you and us, (that is, your Officers and us, if thoſe diſpleaſures, which were ſo publickly own'd by us againſt them, were reaſonable or no. If our Scares were juſt, if our Dangers were eminent, if our All were at Stake, and if we wanted their aſſiſtance to avert them, if their private intereſts did not rather bring them faſter

faſter on, did not encourage them to quicker motions, even to the leading us to the very edge of a fatal Precipice, then we complain'd juſtly. Poſſibly we did talk beyond temper or due reſpect, yet ſtill our Allegiance to you was preſcrib'd inviolable; and here I queſtion not, began your miſtake about us, in the ſeveral Stages and Progreſſes Popery made in this Nation; our diſcontents at your Officers was our crime, and we account it our vertue: And though we frequented your Courts, waited at your Altars, with an uninterrupted Conſtancy, yet that was imputed as a diſguiſe; we were not ſo ſound at Heart, but were ready to take the Firſt opportunity of Rebelling againſt you, or at leaſt putting ſome indignities upon you. We propound now by this Scheme of Affairs drawn and preſented to you, to evince our fears were reaſonable, our dangers eminent, our exceptions juſt, and our Faiths to you unſpotted; from all which, this conſequence will ariſe, that very unneceſſarily has been all this clamour, this zealous concern in our late Elections, this ſcandalous and offenſive diſcrimination of Perſons, who lived conſtantly in obedience to you. But Madam, though theſe uſages do in our hearts affect your Miniſters, who have concern'd themſelves moſt, yet you your ſelf remain Crown'd there, and ſhall ever do ſo.

I appeal to your ſelf Madam, if you were not reſtor'd both by King and People, with as much Joy and Applauſe as ever was expreſs'd by any Nation in the World; the Firſt Parliament inveſting you with all your Rights, Civil and Eccleſiaſtical. Remember what Wealth flowed to you, by Renewing your fallen, or almoſt run-out Leaſes, which without any wrong might well at that Juncture have ſupply'd the Crown: The Corporations all over *England* now fill'd up with Members the moſt affectionate to your Government and Greatneſs. You were the Idol of all the Nobility and Gentry of *England*, and every Day gain'd ground upon your Diſſenting Enemies; the more Moderate hearkning

kning to, and beginning to approve of your Reaſonings; and the moſt inveterate, aſham'd of their Obſtinacy, retiring into Corners, appear'd little in the Light. And had not ſome rough unpolitick Methods been taken up, and purſued with too much Heat, we are confident you had gain'd your Point, and ſtopp'd all their further Pretences, ever to riſe again in the Government. So that at laſt, either induc'd by Intereſt or Reaſon, moſt of them had come over to you, and the ſeparation been brought into a very narrow Compaſs.

In thoſe early days that we had the fullneſs of Joy and Triumph in all our Hearts and Minds, for the Return of our Beloved King, and our no leſs Adored Church; even then alas, the Myſtery of Iniquity, as the Apoſtle calls it, began to work among us, and intermixing itſelf in our Councils and yours, firſt broach'd, and finely inſinuated the Executing the Penal Laws againſt all Diſſenters. 'Tis true, the *Romaniſts* were in appearance included, but the Net was ſecretly drawn from over them, and the other Diſſenters alone left inſnar'd. *Sanguis Martyrum ſemen Eccleſiæ*, holds good in other caſes, beſides thoſe of the Primitive Times; and what they loſt by your gentle Showers of Favour upon them, they regain'd in this Pecuniary Impriſoning Perſecution, as they call'd it. In it likewiſe, your old Partiality between the *Romaniſts* and them, appear'd but too much; and its ſcarce imaginable, what ground you loſt, by being repreſented as Revengeful, and Thirſting for Opportunities to retaliate all the late Violences you had receiv'd from them. It was a long time before your great Friends, the Nobility and Gentry of *England*, though they diſlik'd the Proceedings themſelves, could be brought to ſee the weakneſs of your Politicks, or the Arts by which you were impos'd on by your certain and irreconcilable Enemies, who as yet like Moles working under-ground, were contriving your utter Ruin. But in a few Years, the breach of the Triple League ſhutting

up

up the Exchequer, the declaring War againſt *Holland*, and the General Licenſe to a Publick Exerciſe of all Religions (as they were call'd) pull'd off the Vizar, and then the Myſtery was a little more apparent. Then it was, that the Parliament, as much as was poſſible, ſtrove to unravel this Clew of Impoliticks, beginning bitterly to reſent the Infringement of the Triple League, to be uneaſie at the purſuance of the *Dutch* War, but poſitively reſolute to revoke theſe Licences, (as knowing whereto they tended.) And from thence the Nation growing highly Jealous of Deſigns, lying very deep, in order to bring on your Ruin, and the Slavery of all *Europe*, very vigorouſly apply themſelves, to break all theſe Meaſures which ſeem'd ſo fatal to our Religion and Honour, as being the Ballance of *Chriſtendom*. But it found a dead Weight, too heavy to lift or force to a concurrence with it, in order to theſe ſo ſafe ends, *viz.* the Crown, and the Immediate Court, the Lords and Church-Barons, giving Negatives to all the healing Preſcriptions, from its Houſe of Commons, to put a ſtop to the daily ſpreading Gangrene of Popery and Slavery. Theſe Experiments being often ſucceſsfully tried by your Enemy, that in thoſe lay the certain over-ballance of the Lords Houſe, and might be rely'd on, brought forth the Birth of a very Impolitick action, which (morally Speaking,) one might have thought would have quite overthrown this, at that time unfiniſh'd Fabrick; I mean, the Duke's Declaring himſelf a Papiſt. For, Madam, had you reſented, as in reaſon we might have expected from you, this his Publickly-own'd-Converſion, and upon that joyn'd your Eccleſiaſtical Votes with the truly *Engliſh* ones in the Houſe of Peers, many of thoſe Conſequences and ſad Dangers, which afterwards fell upon you and us, had been prevented. And ſince your want of Foreſight or Miſtruſting ſuch a thing, had given the Boldneſs to ſuch an open Profeſſion, you might by a becoming boldneſs, ſhewing your Diſlike, have ſtopp'd thoſe Aſſiſtances, and that Countenance the King himſelf gave him upon this occaſion:

caſion: But it was through your appearing ſo unconcern'd in ſo delicate a Matter, that made it appear to the King of no ſuch Danger, even for himſelf to hearken to thoſe Temptations he was beſieg'd with round; till at laſt by Degrees his Brothers Infection ſeiz'd him alſo. We cannot but ſay, that here flow'd in all theſe great Diſcontents againſt you, in the Hearts and Reaſons of the Soundeſt, Ableſt, and Beſt Eſtated Noble-men and Gentry: But miſtake us not, all this while they had not the leaſt Prejudice to your Eſtabliſh'd Laws, or Forms of Governments; but only to your too-much intereſted Politicks, and the Evil Counſels of your Principal Officers, who minded more your Temporalties, than your Glory and Honour.

Thus, while the Nation labour'd againſt thoſe Storms, they foreſaw coming upon us, you (*Gallio*-like,) cared for none of theſe things; when a Popiſh Plot broke out, ſome Violent Spirits, not heeding the ſlow, but ſure ſteps of the Wiſer ſort (who would have been contented to wait the Ripening of Time for ſo great a Project) were reſolv'd to puſh the Deſign on, and take off the too-cautious King; who lik'd the affair well enough, but would play the Game ſure, leſt he and his Brother too ſhould be once more ſent to Travel. The whole Nation knows too well, what Arts were us'd to diſcountenance, ſtifle and ridicule all Belief of it; and yet for preſent ſatisfaction, and to ſtill the Cryes of the People, ſome Blood was ſpilt upon it. But to revenge this by a Countermine, there was forg'd or diſcover'd, or what you will (all will be known at the laſt day,) a Meal-Tub, Rye-houſe, *Oxford* Plot, and laid to the Diſſenters Charge: God Almighty (I believe) only knows the Truth of theſe things, for as yet they are Myſteries cover'd over with dark Clouds, and perhaps

will never appear in the Suns Light. But here we cannot but remark the continuance of your Partiality; With what a ſtrange difficulty were you brought to believe the Firſt, and with what vulgar-credulous eaſineſs did you run into the other? And the Noble, as well as Mean Blood that was ſhed upon this account, had, inſtead of Tears or Sighs, Hard Words, and ſuſpicious Sentences, if not a downright Belief, That God had puniſhed the Impoſture of the Firſt, by diſcovering and bringing to Juſtice the Laſt. But Madam, we muſt tell you, that the ſeveral Parliaments, with all the Corruptions that were amidſt them, had Sentiments different from all this, nor would they be ſo blinded; which Poſitiveneſs in them, brought forth at the laſt *Oxford* Diſſolution. And then, when that Declaration, full of Invectives againſt the very Eſſence, Being, and Conſtitution of Parliaments, thereby to render them odious, came out, your Supine Eaſineſs was made uſe of; and Good God! with what blind Paſſive Obedience, did you read in your Churches, that Two-Edg'd Sword, which at one Blow, was to cut aſunder our Civil and your Eccleſiaſtical Rights? that ſo, having ſeduc'd you into ſo ridiculous an Action, you might be rendred contemptible in the Eyes of all Men. But ſtill Madam, we would be underſtood, that this, according to the receiv'd Maxim, affected not you, but your Ill-inform'd and Impolitick Inſtruments. Parliaments being thus diſgrac'd, and your Clergy ſham'd into a ſilent Non-reſiſtance; nay, being ready to give their Bleſſing upon all Undertakings againſt you and the State; Then aroſe boldly upon the Stage, Corrupt Juries, Brib'd Witneſſes, Judges (like the Prieſts in *Jeroboam*'s Schiſm,) made from the meaneſt and moſt ignorant of the People, the King's Council Slaves to their Intereſts and preſent Gain: Theſe committed Murthers, ſet Fines, ruin'd Families, attainted Blood, overthrew Charters, and what not?

not? And all this, that having thus modell'd the Civil Government, according to an Arbitrary Model, you by a Law might be remov'd, and the *Romans* come in and take away your Place and Nation.

How ſtupendous was your Blindneſs through all theſe Tranſactions! With what Fury and Anger did you bend all your Rhetorick againſt Phanaticks! Who poor Wretches waited at a diſtance your Ruin, which they had great reaſon to judge, would happen from the Murmurs and Diſcontents vented againſt you by the Nobility and Gentry of this Nation. And yet after all this, you would not vouchſafe one Word, to call us to beware the Sword, even then at our Throats: Oh, that String muſt by no means be touch'd; Paſſive Obedience, and Non-Reſiſtance forbad you that Boldneſs; Or rather the preſent Poſſeſſion of Rich Preferments, which your Officers enjoy'd under you, forbad ſo unſeaſonable and Rebellious an Inſolence.

It is not to be deny'd, that hard things were ſaid of you, as That you would bring all to Ruin, That theſe encouragements would haſten to the fatal Blow. And what was foreſeen long before, happened indeed; the Game was now thought ſo ſure, that the Cards might be truſted into Hands that would venture at all. The King died, Poor Gentleman! Though 'tis thought he deſerved better at their Hands, at leaſt if it were but for the good Services he had done them; but it ſeems his Genius had too much Mercury for a Bigot, and ſo his Brother muſt have the Honour of Perfecting this Building, which had coſt ſo much Labour and Art to raiſe and continue it. He enters upon the Stage with Oaths and Promiſes, but ſuch as he either intended

 plainly

plainly to break, or had ſuch Mental-Reſervations, as might free him on occaſion from downright Perjury. All theſe you, Gudgeon-like, ſwallow'd greedily, and ever thank'd him for thoſe very Aſſurances which in your Hearts you could give no credit to. Nay ſtill you perſiſted as a Salve for our Diſcontents, and Apprehenſions of yours and our own Ruin, to purſue us ſtill with thoſe Dangerous Doctrins of Paſſive Obedience, and Non-Reſiſtance; till at laſt, you and we became the ſcorn of all the World, and the Laughing-Stock to our Common Enemy.

Your Diſſenting Back Friends, were more Vigilant, and made one raſh Attempt to reſcue themſelves from theſe Miſchiefs, but fail'd in it; and it was God Almighties Infinite Mercy, That this Succeſs had not made all their own; ſince 'tis a known Maxim, *That a Plot Diſcovered and Broken, doubly ſtrengthens thoſe againſt whom it is made.* Methinks in your Caſe, Neutrality had been as little as could be expected: But, Madam, remember with what Joy, Congratulations and Triumph, you celebrated that Victory, which was ſo near coſting you even your own Hearts Blood! And being infatuated with Ignorance and Folly (to ſay no worſe,) with what a ſerene Face you look'd on thoſe Tragidies abhorred by all Men. All People were big with Expectation, when you would awake from this fatal Lethargy; the Time was not yet quite come, though Fire was ſet to your Neighbours Houſe, and all the Streets cry'd *Fire, Fire*, yet ſtill you mov'd not. At laſt it took hold of an Out-Houſe of yours, and then, and not till then, you began to ſtir; Your Non-Reſiſtance now beginning to be turn'd into a Defending your Properties, in the Famous Cities of your own immediate Patrimony. And ſtill to provoke you, and caſt you down to the loweſt ſtep of Contempt,

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or elſe to expoſe you, by your Diſobedience, to what then was call'd the Juſtice of the Government; You were commanded to publiſh as good as your own Diſſolution, even the Depoſing your ſelf from any Right to Govern any longer, and the Abſolving us from all Allegiance to you. A Noble and Generous ſtand you then made, after ſo many ſhameful Retreats: And be your ſelf the Judge, Did ever any Nation countenance, receive, and with more Acclamations celebrate this your own Action? Or expreſs more Zeal, Love, nay even Adoration to you, for this your appearing in your own Defence? And were not theſe Injuries to you put in the Firſt Place of the Nations Wrongs? A certain ſign, that the Reverence and Love to you in your Conſtitution and Doctrin, was not loſt in the Hearts of your Subjects. They did indeed, and we believe too truly, think that you did not ſoon enough throw your ſelf into the Gap, which made theſe Dangers come ſooner and faſter upon us, than elſe they would have done. Nay (poſſibly,) many thought theſe Hazards had long ago been driven away, or had of themſelves vaniſh'd into Smoak, and the Nation never driven to theſe Exigencies; had you but timely done your Duty, and with ſeaſonable foreſight, joyn'd your Intereſt in the Legiſlative Power, with the other awaken'd Part of the Nation: At that time I ſay, when this Cloud, which at laſt overſpread our whole Horizon, was diſcovered from the Tops of the Mountains, ariſing out of the Sea, no bigger than a Man's Hand.

The Civil ſtrength of the Nation, thus fortified by your Countenance, and ſhin'd upon by your Benign Beams, caſt about to find out a ſure Deliverance for your ſelf and them; Time indeed preſſing upon them, being put to the utmoſt point of Bearing any longer,

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leſt very ſuddenly things ſhould fall headlong into an irrecoverable Deſtruction, by that which all the World look'd on as an Impoſtor: Which too, were its Birth never ſo real, was brought upon the Stage with ſo much Imprudence, and ſo little Precaution, as if all were done on purpoſe to defy the whole Nation, and give it juſt Reaſon of Suſpition.

You know very well, Madam, the Circumſtances of our Deliverance, how the Abdication was adjudg'd, the Throne declar'd Vacate, a New King and Queen poſſeſs'd of the Crown, the Succeſſion of that ſetled on the Heirs of the Abdicated King. You likewiſe know, that renouncing all Belief, or the leaſt notice of the Forg'd Birth and Child, the Executive Power of the Government was plac'd in the King, as being the Great and Happy Inſtrument of our Deliverance; and as moreover a Prince, in reward of his Integrity and Parts, plac'd at the Head of the League of Princes, United for Defence of themſelves, againſt the further Violences and Encroachments of the King of *France*; and to revenge thoſe Devaſtations, Murthers, Deſtructions, Uſurpations and Treacheries committed by him againſt them and their Subjects, and to puniſh his Impiety, in calling into *Europe* the much-more-Chriſtian *Turk*; that amidſt thoſe troubled Waters, he might obtain his own Ambitious Ends.

And now Madam, your Sons having thus provided for you Safety and their own, againſt their and your Implacable Enemies, Popery and Arbitrary Government; they threw themſelves at your Feet for your Bleſſing and Sincere Concurrence with them in theſe ſo wholſom and well-digeſted Reſolves. But O ſtupendous!

dous! to our amazing wonder, you fled from us, and drew back like *Ephraim* in the Day of Battel! Starting aside as a Broken Bow, return'd to your old and unneceſſary Partiality. If Popery (ſay you) be quite Ruin'd, the Fanaticks will riſe up in their room; this new Head of the Nation is unacquainted with us, train'd up in *Calviniſm*, and we ſhall be in a worſe condition than before. If theſe were not your Reaſonings, we are ſure they were the beſt you could have; for your Nice School-Diſtinctions, and Ill-tim'd tender Conſciences, with the old Remains of Non-Reſiſtance and Paſſive Obedience, were certainly inducements much below your Underſtandings. Whatever they were, this we know, that Abdication nor Vacate would not down, but (inſtead of them) your over-tender Conſciences muſt ſtickle for Regency; and that failing, you ſtruggle hard for a Queen and a King; and being likewiſe balked in this, ſtrive as hard againſt a King and a Queen. From all which ſtrugling efforts, many with much more reaſon ſuſpected the fled King lay at the Bottom; who alſo us'd all his Endeavours at that time, to make the Breach every day wider: While all you did, was to bring Rubbiſh to fill it up, to the hazard of a Relapſe into our late Miſeries, and the again indangering your Dutiful Sons, who had ventur'd their Fortunes, Lives, Honours and all, for your Deliverance as well as their own. Yet at laſt, though with great Difficulty, they paſt through all Obſtructions, and indeed wrought your ſafety whether you would or no: 'Tis very true, we did, and with great reaſon too, take ill your ſo poſitive refuſing your Allegiance to our Princes; and what that Denial can mean, we muſt needs be at a great loſs, being very unwilling to believe, that you account King *James* your King ſtill, and no other. On this account however, we did not think it at all convenient, to truſt the guidance of the Peoples Conſciences, the forming their

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Principles, the directing their Converſations and Practices, to thoſe Men who would not give us their Teſtimony of joyning with us, in owning this Government by an Oath of Allegiance: This Government, I ſay, for the Eſtabliſhing of which, we have depoſited our Lives, Fortunes and Honours. Therefore upon their Refuſal, they were to ſuffer the Penalty of Deprivation, *ab Officio*; and this Neceſſity forc'd us to do, not any the leaſt Intention to break into your Conſtitution, much leſs to eſtrange our ſelves from it. We ſee plainly, that Intereſt has been the great Motive of Complyance, to more than either Reaſon, or the Danger of our Religion and Liberties, and the Libertie of all *Europe*: All the Nation knows what a Thorn in our Sides, and Hindrance in our Affairs, has been the Fatal Example of ſome Shining Lights, Eminent in your Court; who, though in other reſpects, they be worthy of all Regard, are in this no better than *Ignes Fatui*.

And now this Repreſentative of the People, and of the Gentry, and Nobility of this Nation, having gon thus far by the Wiſdom of the King, comes to be diſſolv'd, and another call'd: And, as if the laſt Parliament had an inveterate and unpardonable Malice at your Government and Empire, you are now reſolv'd to ſit ſtill no longer, but to uſe all your Intereſt, and exert all your Rhetorick in Publick and Private to tell us, That the Ax is laid to the Root of the Tree; That the Wild Boars and Foxes are breaking into your Vineyard; and that if care be not taken in the preſent Elections, for Men devoted to your Service, all will be loſt for ever. This your Zeal ſeems to proceed from your Diſlike of ſome Proceedings in the laſt Parliament, becauſe 'tis now, juſt now, taken up in Methods neither like thoſe of your former or

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laſt Elections : Wherein, according to the Partial Sway of your Cenſuring Minds, you bitterly Condemn, even to Ignominious Language, many of your Dutiful Lay-Sons, who perhaps are more faithful to you than theſe your Buſy-working Eccleſiaſticks. I need not inſtance Particulars, their Behaviours every where in this Matter being ſo generally known, much below your Dignity, and at this Juncture I fear prejudicial; I am ſure very unneceſſary. Pray ſpeak out plain, ſince the People murmure out various Suſpitions and Gueſſes what your Officers ſhould drive at, by making this Buſtle: Some think, you are diſpleas'd at the Abdication, before an Addreſs from the whole Nation; and that upon his Refuſal to Return to Govern by the Laws, a Regency was not rather Eſtabliſh'd. Others, That you would have had a Queen with a Husband, and not a King and Queen. And others think you are affronted that the Oath of Fidelity was impos'd upon the Clergy: And ſome think you believe, that the Laſt Parliament being not call'd by a Writ from a Crown'd Head, could neither be turn'd, nor turn itſelf into a Parliament; and ſo remaining ſtill but a Convention, all its Acts may be queſtioned, not having as yet the Force of Laws.

Well Madam, as your Panick Fears were very unneceſſary, if at leaſt they were the Cauſes of theſe your Unbecoming and Undecent Motions; ſo I dare maintain, That if theſe are the things you expect from this Parliament, your Hopes will prove full as vain as your Fears were. Nothing can turn the Gentry and Nobility, (of which our Parliaments muſt always conſiſt,) from the true National Intereſt of the whole Community. 'Tis not Notional Terms of

High Church-Men, Diſſenter, Whig, Tory or the like Factious Diſcriminations of Parties, that will paſs in that Aſſembly, let them be Choſen by what Arts or Imputations ſoever. The Bent of *England* will now be, or elſe we and you are both undone, to defend this Government, ſo Bleſſed and Eſtabliſhed by the Providence of God, to promote the Extirpation of Popery and Arbitrary Power, to the Brink of which Precipices, we were ſo lately brought; to be Zealous and Intent upon the Reducement of *Ireland*; to Abet, and vigorouſly Aſſiſt the League among our Neighbour Princes and States againſt *France*. As theſe doubtleſs will be the Meaſures they will take, ſo (Madam,) we would humbly intreat you, as well for the ſake of your Reputation, as of your Safety, to promote them, by frequently inculcating them to thoſe Members, who have the Honour of your Confidence, but eſpecially adviſe them to ſettle Affairs, in Order to the War now on our Hands, that that Wheel may not ſtand ſtill for want of a Supply. Nay, be pleaſed you your ſelf, to come in with your immediate Aſſiſtance, for your Stake is as much, or more concern'd than ours: And indeed Madam, we did verily expect that from your Prudence and Policy. What better way can you ſecure your ſelf from the dangers which you fear are ariſing to you in the Head and Members of this preſent Government, than to make it your Friend, by aſſiſting it at this time of need, with your Mony joyn'd to your Prayers? that were true Wiſdom indeed, and all the World did believe that would certainly accompany this Zeal, to ſhew your ſelf uſeful to us: The Widows Mite will be accepted, and may cover a Multitude of Faults; for if not with you, this Government will preſerve it ſelf without you, be moſt aſſur'd. How would it joy our Hearts, to ſee your Helping Hand to this great Work!

Work! You will find Precedents enough to induce you to it; and it would be the wiſeſt Policy you have us'd this long time, and would (we aſſure you,) be much more ſucceſsful, than this your late Zealous Concern in Elections, by ungrateful and unjuſt Diſcrimination of Perſons. Theſe Affairs are of ſo great concern to the Nation, and ſo well worth the care of theſe Houſes, that there will be little leaſure to fall upon leſſer Matters: And as for your Intereſt, it is certainly ſecure; Your Ladyſhip is in full Poſſeſſion; and God forbid but you ſhould continue ſo; and were it the Deſign of any to diſturb you, 'tis neither Wiſe nor Seaſonable to attempt it now.

If this Madam, be your caſe, and we are pretty confident it is, without farther Reflections upon paſt Miſtakes, or preſent Miſunderſtandings, give us leave to adviſe you, not to promote or wiſh for (no not in your Cloſets,) the Looking back into any of thoſe things that have of late been ſetled among us: Confuſion will be the Child of ſuch a Parent, and by it, both you and we may become Pillars of Folly and Scorn. Neither ought theſe good Deſigns and Meaſures be cry'd up, as if occaſion'd by particular Perſons, or any one Party of Men, known by this or that Word of Diſtinction, a thing very dangerous to be aſſumed by any, or ſo much as pretended to; but they rather are to be thought the Effects of the Weight of a National Intereſt, and of Self-Preſervation. We beſeech you, Bleſs, Join with, Pray for, and Swear to this Government, ſeeing it is the beſt and only Card you have to play for the Preſervation of your All: And bearing down all Words of Diſtinction, likewiſe pray for, and encourage a perfect, general Union, that ſo all Hands Eccleſiaſtical and

Civil, may joyn to bring this Child of Providence to perfect Maturity; we mean, our Deliverance from the Bondage of *Egypt*. Turn your Eyes altogether upon that Danger, and only ſet your Shoulders againſt that Enemy: 'Tis he that will (if poſſible,) break your Head, whereas the other, you ſo much fear at Home, can at the worſt but only bruiſe your Heel; nor ever can, nor ever will do more. That, that, Madam is the *Hannibal* which is at your Gates; Bar them therefore ſtrongly againſt him, drive him out of your Borders; nay, if it were poſſible, help to drive him out of the World. As for your other Enemy, he may like Sin, remain in your Land; but (ſatisfy your ſelf,) he can never Rule here by a Law: Make uſe of him therefore, as of a *Canaanite*, for a quickner of your Vertues. Good Lives, with the Charming Graces of Love and Charity, may win them, (ſince Force will never do it) from an Admiration of your Shining Piety, to a Hearing of your Reaſon; and from thence to a Conformity and Obedience to your ſo Holy and Decent Doctrins and Forms of Worſhip.

We ſhall now conclude theſe our Humble and Dutiful Repreſentations to you, with this one Reflection more. By the Series of Affairs in the laſt paſt Years, we may very reaſonably conclude, your Eaſineſs has been too much impos'd upon by your Enemies taking advantage of your ſo long rooted Partiality; a weak ſide that has often been made uſe of very ſucceſsfully againſt you: And that it has wrought no worſe effects, next to the Providence of God (watching over, and hiding under the Shadow of his Wings, a Church as uprightly conſtituted, both for Doctrin and Diſcipline, as the Iniquity of all Ages and Revolutions would admit of,) we muſt attribute to the dangers all

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Men of Senſe and Love to their Countrey, would apprehend, from removing Foundations in Government long rooted, and well eſtabliſh'd either in Church or State; eſpecially for ſuch on the one ſide as experience tells us, will bring upon the Nation Tyranny over our Properties, Slavery upon our Conſciences, and Superſtition in our Devotion: And the ſame Experience has ſhew the effects on the other ſide, (among us, I mean) Anarchy and Confuſion both in Church and State.

Laſtly, We cannot but impart to you our Suſpition. You are now again made a Property to ſome dark affairs, which I hope God will bring to light in his due time; what reaſon there was in any to give this Alarm, let every one Judge according to his own fancy: But this we do very aſſuredly affirm, there was no cauſe given for you to take it. We are very glad no Private Pen has undertaken to endeavour the ſtopping this ſo precipitate Career. You have had, or at leaſt ſhewn your bent on all the Elections throughout *England*; What Fruit have you reap'd of theſe things? Thoſe few changes of Perſons that there are, have ſent you much the ſame Spirit, as far as yet is to be Judg'd; and 'tis our opinion, and not a very improbable one, had no one Elector, though never ſo mean or poor, been prepoſſeſs'd by any one Party or Intereſt of Men in this Nation, but been left to his choice, according to the free motion of his own Mind, the whole Aſſembly would not have much varied in their Deſigns and Politicks; but the Safety of the whole, will be Firſt conſidered, and then all other things will come in their due courſe of order; for your Safety is involved in the whole, as being by their own Law Eſtabliſhed.

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We may judge of *Hercules* by his Foot; the Beginnings are ſafe, and tend to Settlement; the providing vigorouſly for carrying on this War, in which your Good and ours muſt riſe or fall together: Fancy them not your Friends nor your Elections, that ſet all things in ſo right a Method: 'Tis the Intereſt of the Nation weighs now in the Ballance; and had your Officers ſtay'd Decently at Home, or Modeſtly given their Votes, the Temper of the Houſe had been ſtill the ſame: And give God the Glory, not your own Prudence, that you are ſo ſafe, ſo very ſafe; for it has been very deſperately ventured. Yet we will Defend you with our Lives and Fortunes.

FINIS.

A Catalogue of ſome Books lately Printed for Thomas Newborough, *at the* Golden-Ball, *in St.* Paul's *Church-Yard.*

THe Travels of *Monſieur Thevenot*, into the *Levant*; in Three parts: *Viz.* Into *Turkey*, *Perſia*, and the *Eaſt-Indies*. *Folio.*

A New Hiſtory of the Empire *China*, containing a Deſcription of the Politick Government, Towns, Manners and Cuſtoms of the People, *&c. Octavo.* 1689.

A New and Eaſy Method to the Art of Dialling, containing, 1. All Horizontal Dials, all Upright Dials, Reflecting Dials, Dials without Centers, Nocturnal Dials, Upright Declining Dials, without knowing the Declination of the Place. 2. The moſt Natural and Eaſy way of Deſcribing the Curve Lines of the Suns Declination on any Place; the like never before Publiſhed. By *Thomas Strode* of *Maxerton*, in the County of *Somerſet*. *Quarto.*

Obſervations on the War of *Hungary*, by a Perſon of Quality.